

160. The aggregate probe of Claim 158 comprising three types of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides attached to the first type of nanoparticles having a sequence complementary to at least a portion of the sequence of the oligonucleotides attached to the second type of nanoparticles, the oligonucleotides attached to the second type of nanoparticles having a sequence complementary to at least a portion of the sequence of the oligonucleotides attached to the first type of nanoparticles, and the third type of nanoparticles having two types of oligonucleotides attached thereto, the first type of oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a portion of the sequence of a nucleic acid, and the second type of oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to at least a portion of the sequence of the oligonucleotides attached to the first or second type of nanoparticles.

161. An aggregate probe, the aggregate probe comprising at least two types of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the nanoparticles of the aggregate probe being bound to each other as a result of the hybridization of some of the oligonucleotides attached to them, at least one of the types of nanoparticles of the aggregate probe having oligonucleotides attached thereto which have a hydrophobic group attached to the end not attached to the nanoparticles.

162. A kit comprising a container holding a core probe, the core probe comprising at least two types of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the nanoparticles of the core probe being bound to each other as a result of the hybridization of some of the oligonucleotides attached to them.

163. The kit of Claim 162 further comprising a substrate having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a first portion of the sequence of a nucleic acid to be detected.

164. The kit of Claim 162 or 163 further comprising a container holding a type of nanoparticles having two types of oligonucleotides attached thereto, the first type of oligonucleotides having a sequence complementary to a second portion of the nucleic acid, and the second type of oligonucleotides having sequence complementary to a portion of the sequence of the oligonucleotides attached to at least one of the types of nanoparticles of the core probe.

165. The kit of Claim 162 or 163 further comprising a container holding a type of linking oligonucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to a second portion of the sequence of the nucleic acid and a sequence complementary to a portion of the sequence of the oligonucleotides attached to at least one of the types of nanoparticles of the core probe.

166. A core probe comprising at least two types of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the nanoparticles of the core probe being bound to each other as a result of the hybridization of some of the oligonucleotides attached to them.

167. A substrate having nanoparticles attached thereto.

168. The substrate of Claim 167 wherein the nanoparticles have oligonucleotides attached thereto which have a sequence complementary to the sequence of a first portion of a nucleic acid.

169. A metallic or semiconductor nanoparticle having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides being labeled with fluorescent molecules at the ends not attached to the nanoparticle.

170. A satellite probe comprising:

a particle having attached thereto oligonucleotides, the oligonucleotides having a first portion and a second portion, both portions having sequences complementary to portions of the sequence of a nucleic acid; and

probe oligonucleotides hybridized to the oligonucleotides attached to the nanoparticles, the probe oligonucleotides having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion having a sequence complementary to the sequence of the first portion of the oligonucleotides attached to the particles, both portions having sequences complementary to portions of the sequence of the nucleic acid, the probe oligonucleotides further having a reporter molecule attached to one end.

171. A method of nanofabrication comprising

providing at least one type of linking oligonucleotide having a selected sequence, the sequence of each type of linking oligonucleotide having at least two portions;

providing one or more types of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto, the oligonucleotides on each of the types of nanoparticles having a sequence complementary to the sequence of a portion of a linking oligonucleotide; and

contacting the linking oligonucleotides and nanoparticles under conditions effective to allow hybridization of the oligonucleotides on the nanoparticles to the linking oligonucleotides so that a desired nanomaterial or nanostructure is formed wherein the nanoparticles are held together by oligonucleotide connectors.

172. The method of Claim 171 wherein at least two types of nanoparticles having oligonucleotides attached thereto are provided, the oligonucleotides on the first type of nanoparticles having a sequence complementary to a first portion of the sequence of a linking oligonucleotide, and the oligonucleotides on the second type of nanoparticles having a sequence complementary to a second portion of the sequence of the linking oligonucleotide.